



Saint Mark's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Weekly Update

November 10, 2022

## Blessing of Prayer Shawls this Sunday, November 13

St. Mark's Prayer Shawl Ministry started August 2005. This is a knitting and crocheting ministry where each shawl is begun with prayers and blessings that are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. The shawls bring comfort, warmth and love to those who are hurting. The shawls are a reminder of God's ever-present love and bring comfort in knowing that others are walking with them. If you need a prayer shawl for yourself or someone else, pick up one in Rees Hall on Sunday or contact one of the pastors at any time. If you would like to knit or crochet prayer shawls, a booklet of patterns and prayers is available. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 P.M. in the Fireside Room. The meetings are relaxed and informal. Contacts: Sue Fletcher at 770-1271 or Wanda Hurtgen at 770-1905.

## Progressive Dinner – Sunday, December 11 (*Sign up in Rees Hall on Sunday*)

This year we will return to a more traditional "progressive" format. Appetizers will be served at homes (4 -5:15 pm), then we'll move to St. Mark's Rees Hall for dinner/desserts (5:30 – 6:45 pm), followed by entertainment (7-7:45 pm).

**Sign up begins November 6. The cost is \$15/person.** We are looking for volunteers who would like to host the appetizer portion in their home. If interested let Julie ([urbanja@comcast.net](mailto:urbanja@comcast.net)) or Suzanne ([maericson2000@aol.com](mailto:maericson2000@aol.com)) know as soon as possible.

## Soup Sunday – November 20

Homemade soup and bread will be served until noon in Rees Hall. Take-out is also available. Freewill offering. All proceeds benefit Thanksgiving meal grocery cards for those in need.

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service – November 23 at 7 pm

St. Mark's once again gathers on Thanksgiving Eve to celebrate God's goodness, bounty, and mercy. Worship begins on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Bring a pie to share if you wish, and stick around after worship for the social hour (with pie, of course). *\*No dinner, youth education, or youth choir this night.*

## Loving God. Loving Others: 2023 Fall Stewardship Appeal



November is traditionally stewardship month at St. Mark's. It's a time to talk about how we share God's blessings with each other and with our larger community. You should have received a brochure outlining the initiatives for St. Mark's 2023 appeal and an intent card (extras at the Welcome Center).

Please prayerfully consider how you will respond to this invitation to participate in what God is doing through St. Mark's.

Last week, we heard from **Tyler Ronsberg** during worship. He spoke about the various ways he has said "yes" when asked to be involved at St. Mark's— singing, church council, and the intern committee to name a few—all of which he felt completely unprepared for at the time. He has come to realize that if he waited to feel ready, he might never have said yes, and would have missed out on some very valuable opportunities and experiences. For Tyler, it all comes down to blessings *from* St. Mark's (it's people, history, and dreams) and blessings *shared with* St. Mark's (talents, offerings, and faith). Pray and be open to new ways of blessing others and being blessed. *Who knows what you'll discover along the way.* If you were unable to attend worship last Sunday, you can view Tyler's talk online. Just click on the Worship Service link at [www.stmarks-nsp.org](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org).

This coming week, we'll hear from **Mark McKenzie** about blessings – how he has shared his blessings *with* the St. Mark's community, and how he has been blessed *by* the St. Mark's community.

**Stewardship Sunday is November 20**, at which time you are encouraged to return your intent card. We hope you will catch the excitement of our 2023 initiatives and respond with gratitude as you are able. Or complete your intent card online here: <https://onrealm.org/SaintMarksNSP/AddPledge/2023intent>

*As always, your gifts to our shared ministry are very much appreciated!*

## Mark Your Calendars

### Craft Fair to Support Kihesa – December 3

St. Mark's is hosting a craft fair to support our sister congregation, Kihesa Lutheran, in Iringa, Tanzania on Saturday, December 3 from 9 am to 4 pm. Perfect timing for Christmas shopping. You'll find handmade candies, wreaths, jewelry, artwork, ornaments, doll clothes, jams and jellies, blankets, towels, bags, signs, apparel, and more! There are still vendor spots open. Download the form at [www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources) or pick one up in the church office. Questions? Please contact Sharon Tyman at 763-312-9224 or [sabrinasharon@gmail.com](mailto:sabrinasharon@gmail.com).

### Women's Advent Brunch: *Music is in the Air* Sat. Dec. 10 at 10:00 am

All women are invited to the annual Advent Brunch as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. This is a special time of year as we gather for good food, fellowship, music and to enjoy this beautiful season. Our musical program will be the "Silver Harmony Singers." St. Mark's members, Diane & Joe Danko, are a part of this group. They will perform a variety of songs including Christmas and sing-a-longs. Sign-up on Sundays Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 in Rees Hall, or by calling Virginia Collier at 651-777-0584. Cost is \$12.00. **Please register by Wed. Dec. 4. Bring a friend - or two!**

### Special Meeting of the Congregation – Sunday, December 11, after worship

On behalf of the church council and in accordance with the church by-laws, I do hereby call for a special congregational meeting on December 11 for the purpose of review and approval of the revisions to the St. Mark's Constitution which were last reviewed and revised in 2016. Beginning tomorrow, you may download the digital version at [www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources](http://www.stmarks-nsp.org/resources). A limited number of hard copies of the changes will be available at the Welcome Center and in the Church office. ~Mike Ericson, Church Council President

### "Field trip" to see Ashland Productions *Holiday Musical* – Sun. Dec. 18 at 2:00 pm

Everyone is Welcome to attend this holiday event just in time for Christmas. Twenty tickets for the production at Maplewood Community Center (YMCA) have been Reserved for St. Mark's. The cost is \$20/person. Please call Virginia Collier 651-777-0584 or e-mail [ginnacoller@hotmail.com](mailto:ginnacoller@hotmail.com) to **reserve your tickets by December 5**. Following the performance we will enjoy dinner at Acapulco Restaurant 3069 White Bear Ave., Maplewood. Dinner will be on your own.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Players and Planners Volunteer Meeting Monday, November 14

Interested in Drama at St. Mark's? Please join us for our in-person meeting on Monday, November 14 at 7:30pm. We will discuss ideas for future shows and recruiting volunteers. We are looking forward to resuming this wonderful and exciting ministry.

### Gift Goes On – Sponsor an Individual or family this Christmas!

Can you sponsor someone needing a little help this Christmas? St. Mark's will again be participating in the *Gift Goes On* program, in partnership with Ramsey County and Head Start. If you are interested in sponsoring a person, please contact Liz Elicerio-Nelson at [lizelicerio@gmail.com](mailto:lizelicerio@gmail.com) or call 651-278-9049 to provide your contact information.

Once St. Mark's receives the sponsorship list, Liz will contact you so you can select the person you would like to help. Gifts need to be wrapped and returned to St. Mark's by Wednesday, December 8. (Instructions for the drop-off process will be made available when you select a person.) Lists will be available at church following the Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, Nov. 23 and Sunday, Nov. 27.

If you would like to select a name, but prefer to have someone shop for you, there is an option to purchase a Target Gift Card. The Youth of St. Mark's are willing to shop and wrap.

Another way to help is to purchase Cub Gift Cards in the amount of \$15 which will be included with each individual gift bundle. These Gift Cards can be purchased and mailed or dropped off at church or to Liz by December 8th. Please label, "Gift Goes On". *Thank you in advance for helping others in our community this Christmas season.*

### Winter Coat Drive through Nov. 14 Distribution on Nov. 17 from 2-6 pm

St. Mark's is partnering with students and teachers at North High to collect new and gently-used winter coats (also boots, mittens, and other winter gear) for those in need. Look through your closets to see what you can donate or purchase. Racks set up in Rees Hall.

## Ushers Needed!

We are in need of at least three new ushers. No experience necessary, you only have to usher once a month every other month at 9:30 am. Training will be available and you will be doing a great service for St. Mark's and the congregation. Contact Dan Colberg at 612-716-5969 to find out more or to sign up!

## Usher Schedule

Questions? Please contact Dan Colberg at 612-716-5969.

### Sunday, November 13

9:30 am – Usher Team 2  
(8:30 Capt. Carl Hurtgen)

### Sunday, November 20

9:30 am – Usher Team 3  
(8:30 Capt. Larry Dent)

## Wednesday Dinners – 5:00-6:00 pm

What's for supper? On Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm we've got you covered. Volunteers prepare a delicious, homemade meal for all who come to the table. Bring your family. Invite your friends. Let us do the cooking for you! Suggested freewill offering of \$2 per person (\$10 max per family). *If you are interested in helping with cooking, set up, or clean up, please contact Julie at [urbanja@comcast.net](mailto:urbanja@comcast.net).*

A new Children's Menu option each week is designed to appeal to our younger diners. This meal option will be served from the little "house" in Rees Hall.

Regular Menu (subject to change): Nov 16: chili,  
Nov 23-no dinner (pie social after Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 pm)

## Garden Gift Cards

The holidays are approaching quickly. Reminder that the Garden Team has Bachman's and Gertens gift cards available for your holiday decorating – plus they make great gifts! Bachman's can be used to purchase any item they sell. Gertens cards can be used to purchase any green and growing item. If you would like to purchase the gift cards, please call Sherry at 651-777-6704 and we can arrange a time for you to get them. Thank you for supporting the Garden Team.

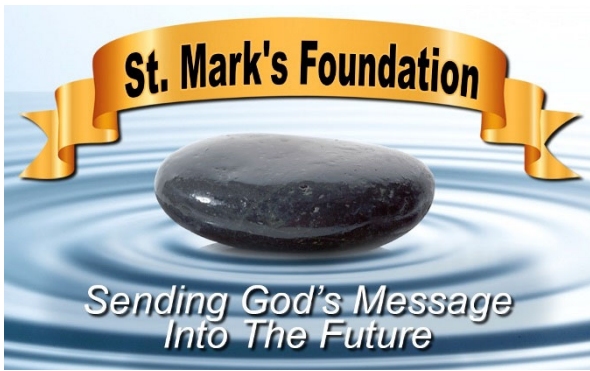
## Thank you: Cutting Baptism blankets

At baptisms, St. Mark's gives a fleece blanket. This is the result of a multi-generation project. Through a Thrivent grant, a total of 21 fleece blankets are available. It is with a grateful heart, we give a big thank you to Peggy Ellefson, Barbara McNeely, Bonnie Meyers, Bonnie Pottratz, Joanne Wegwerth for their help in cutting the blankets. They are now ready for the youth to tie and bless for giving at baptisms. Wanda Hurtgen, Coordinator

## Feed My Starving Children

Last Saturday, November 5, a multi-generational group participated in a food-packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids. This was a great opportunity to serve As Church Together and support the work of this incredible ministry.





### Grateful Recipients...

During Foundation Week in October the focus was on following the ongoing ministries of past interns and seminary students, as well as other worthy projects funded through the years. Positive and appreciative comments were voiced by members of the congregation as they learned more about the Foundation. It is a joy to reflect on the success of grants given out and the continued participation with the Foundation's goals. Visit [www.stmarksnspfoundation.com](http://www.stmarksnspfoundation.com) to learn more about carrying God's word forward for future generations.

### Next Week's Calendar

#### Sunday, November 13

9:30 am Worship Service, SC  
10:30 am Sunday School, CE Office

#### Monday, November 14

5:30 pm Executive Council, office  
6:30 pm Monday Bible Study, FS  
7:00 pm Handbell Choir, SC

#### Tuesday, November 15

9:00 am Morning Bible Study, #203  
10:00 am Naomi Bible Study, FS  
6:30 pm Prayer Shawl Meeting, FS

#### Wednesday, November 16

5:00 pm Dinner, RH  
5:30 pm Joyful Voices, MR  
6:00 pm Act(s)2 Youth Education  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Service, SC

#### Thursday, November 17

8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study, Denny's  
1:00 pm Elizabeth Bible Study, FS  
2:00 pm Coat Distribution, RH  
6:30 pm Anne Bible Study, FS  
6:30 pm Church Council Meeting, Zoom  
7:00 pm Adult Choir, MR

**Friday, November 18** – Office Closed

**Saturday, November 19** – Office Closed

1:30 pm Call Committee, 203-4

**Sunday, November 20**

**Stewardship Appeal Sunday**

**Soup Sunday**

9:30 am Worship Service, SC  
10:30 am Sunday School, CE Office

## In the Community

### North St. Paul Veterans Day Commemoration Friday, November 11 at 11:00 am

Join the Veterans Park Committee, American Legion Post 39, VFW Post 1350, the North High AirForce JROTC Cadets and the North High Choir at the annual Veterans Day Commemoration on Friday, November 11 at 11:00 am at Veterans Park located at 2480 Margaret Street. The commemoration will include the Pledge of Allegiance, an invocation, singing of the National Anthem, words of recognition, and three rifle volleys followed by Taps. Please join us in remembering our military veterans.

### Serving at North St. Paul Food Shelf

The North St. Paul Food Shelf depends on volunteers to serve its clients. Every weekday the Food Shelf needs two or more volunteers to assist with receiving and shelving food between 10 am-1 pm. **Our last service week of 2022 is Nov. 28-Dec.2.** Please contact Pastor David ([prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org](mailto:prdavidb@stmarks-nsp.org)) to sign up. *Your continued support is greatly appreciated.*



### Coffee & Donuts this Sunday...

sponsored by Carl and Wanda Hurtgen in honor of Veterans Day (Nov. 11).